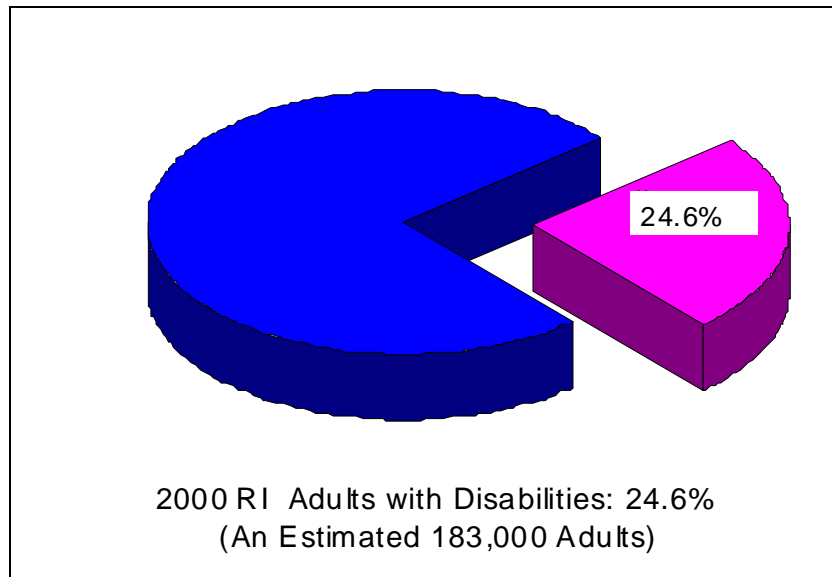

Rhode Island **DISABILITY FACTS** in 2000

An Update of the “*Rhode Island Disability Chartbook*” with the 2000 Rhode Island BRFSS data

November 2001

- ❖ ***Nearly one in four RI non-institutionalized adults (24.6%; an estimated 183,000 adults) had experienced some kind of activity limitations because of any impairment or health problem (Figure 1).***

Figure 1. Estimated Prevalence of Disability among RI Adults, 2000



Data Source:

This brief update presents the results from an analysis of the 2000 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (RIBRFSS) survey data. The RIBRFSS, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is an ongoing, statewide, random-digit-dialed telephone survey of the noninstitutionalized RI adults aged 18 and older to monitor the prevalence of key health- and safety-related behaviors. The 2000 RIBRFSS survey consisted of 3,544 telephone interviews with extensive information on disability/quality of life.

Case Definition of Disability:

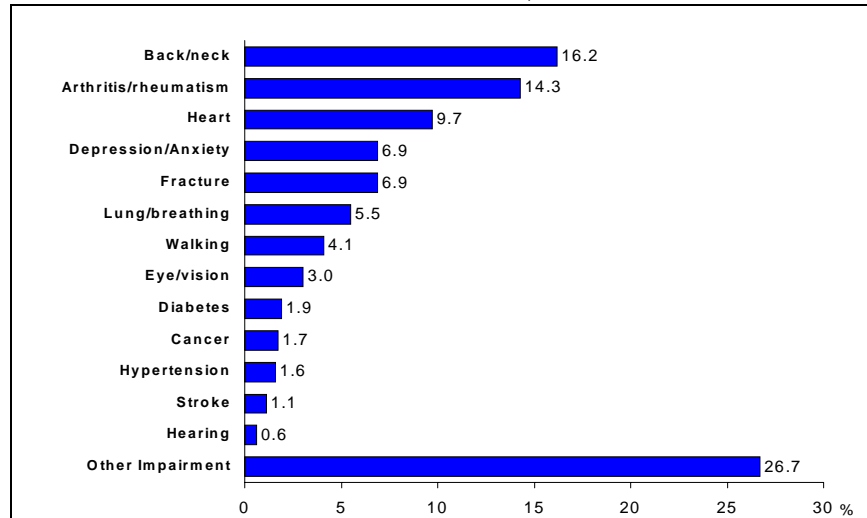
Persons who answered “yes” to any of the following questions were defined as having a disability:

- Are you limited in the kind or amount of work you can do because of any impairment or health problem?
- Because of any impairment or health problem, do you have any trouble learning, remembering, or concentrating?
- Do you use special equipment or help from others to get around?
- Are you limited in any way in any activities because of any impairment or health problem?

Major Health Problem

- ❖ **The most frequently reported impairments or health problems were: back/neck problems (16.2%), arthritis/rheumatism (14.3%), heart problems (9.7%), depression/anxiety (6.9%), and fractures (6.9%) (Figure 2).**

Figure 2. Major Impairment or Health Problem Limiting Activities*
Rhode Island Adults, 2000



* Among those who were defined as having a disability (n=893).

Note: Hearing problems might be under-represented because of telephone interviews.

Employment Status

- ❖ **Among working age adults (21-64 years of age), 59% of people with disabilities were either employed for wages or self-employed, compared to 82% of people without disabilities (Figure 3).**

Figure 3. Employment Status of Working Age Adults (21-64) by Disability Status
Rhode Island Adults, 2000



* Other includes home makers, students, and the retired.

** Unable to work due to a disability.

Comparison of Health Risks

❖ **Health Status**

People with disabilities were much more likely than people without disabilities to report **poor general health** (33.2% vs. 8.1%), **poor physical health** (27.0% vs. 3.2%), and **poor mental health** (23.6% vs. 6.3%) (Figure 4).

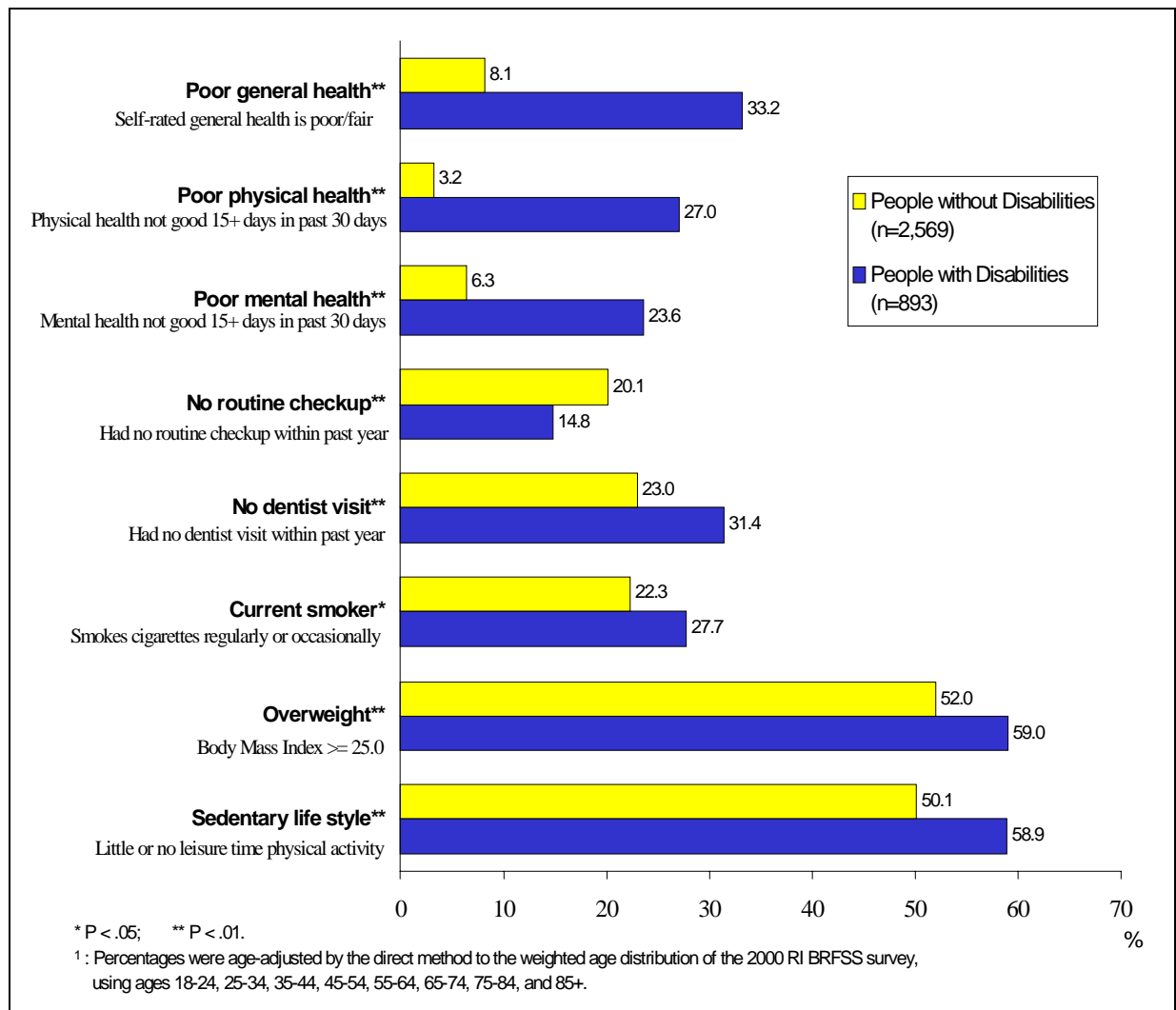
❖ **Health Care Access/Utilization**

While people with disabilities were less likely than people without disabilities not to have had **routine checkups** in the past year (14.8% vs. 20.1%), they were more likely not to have had **dentist visits** in the past year (31.4% vs. 23.0%).

❖ **Behavioral Risks**

People with disabilities were more likely to be **current smokers** (27.7% vs. 22.3%), more likely to be **overweight** (59.0% vs. 52.0%) and more likely to have **sedentary life styles** (58.9% vs. 50.1%).

Figure 4. Comparison of Health Risks by Disability Status
Rhode Island Adults, 2000
(Age-Adjusted Percentage¹)



Socio-Demographic Characteristics

- ❖ ***The prevalence of disability was higher among the elderly, persons with less education and persons with lower incomes than their counterparts (Table 1).***

Table 1. Estimated Prevalence of Disability by Socio-Demographic Characteristics
Rhode Island Adults, 2000
(in percentages, with 95% confidence interval limits)

	Unadjusted Percent	Age-Adjusted Percent ¹
Age		
18-44	17.3 ± 2.2	-
45-64	27.9 ± 3.0	-
65-74	35.6 ± 5.5	-
75 or Older	43.8 ± 6.0	-
Gender		
Male	24.7 ± 2.6	25.5 ± 2.6
Female	24.5 ± 2.0	23.9 ± 2.0
Race/Ethnicity		
White, non-Hispanic	25.4 ± 1.8	24.6 ± 1.8
non-White or Hispanic	21.0 ± 4.3	28.2 ± n.a.
Education (25+ years)		
Less than H.S.	39.2 ± 5.5	37.8 ± 5.5
H.S. Graduate/GED	27.0 ± 3.2	26.2 ± 3.2
Some College	23.9 ± 3.2	24.8 ± 3.3
College Graduate	19.6 ± 2.7	21.4 ± 2.9
Household Income		
<\$15,000	48.0 ± 6.2	46.8 ± 5.9
\$15,000-\$24,999	33.7 ± 4.5	33.4 ± 4.6
\$25,000-\$49,999	22.1 ± 2.9	22.6 ± 3.0
≥\$50,000	14.5 ± 2.4	18.6 ± 3.2

Note: Persons who answered "don't know/ not sure" or "refused" were excluded from the analysis.

¹ Percentages were age-adjusted by direct method to the weighted age distribution of the 2000 RI BRFSS survey, using ages 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75-84, and 85+.

www.healthri.org/family/chartbook.pdf

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This publication series will provide a foundation for developing policies/programs to promote the health and wellness of people with disabilities.